(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) The main tourist spots in Assam for which Central Financial Assistance has been provided are: Guwahati, Kaziranga, Bhalukpong, Sibsagar, Kaliabhomora, Tezpur, Barpeta, Chandrapur, Lungsung, Silchar, Bokakhat, Jakhlabanda, Batadrava, Mangaldoi, Nagaon, Pobitara, Orang, Chapar, Pancharatna, Kamakhya and Kakopathar.

(b) and (c) Central Financial Assistance has been extended to the Government of Assam during 1998-99 for construction of Yatri Niwas at Bubhan hill at a project cost of Rs. 30.50 lakhs. A project for Yatri Niwas at Kashpur has been prioritized for the year 1999-2000 at a cost Rs. 30 lakhs.

Promotion of Tourism in Kerala

771. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for tourism promotion; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is for marketing Kerala in Gulf and Singapore regions. The proposed items have been dove tailed with the ongoing programme of the concerned Government of India Tourist Offices.

Tourist Inflow

†772. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 alongwith their estimated number during 1999-2000, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken for attracting foreign tourists; and

† Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of targets fixed regarding foreign tourists for the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) Total number of foreign tourists who visited India during 1997-98 and 1998-99 were 2.37 million and 2.40 million respectively. Estimated number of tourists for 1999-2000 is 2.59 million.

As per the information available from the State Governments, the estimated number of visits of foreign tourists who visited different States during 1997, 1998 and those expected to visit during 1999 are as follows:

States	Foreign Tourist Arrivals		
	1997	1998	
Andhra Pradesh	94384	82720	87186
Arunachal Pradesh	54	34	36
Assam	723	754	795
Bihar	130375	130723	137782
Goa	261673	272028	286718
Gujarat	7994	9252	9752
Haryana	1660	1316	1387
Himachal Pradesh	62527	62952	66351
Jammu and Kashmir	22372	23137	24386
Karnataka	246862	249836	263327
Kerala	182427	184227	194175
Madhya Pradesh	101982	102800	108351
Maharashtra	977691	980850	1033816
Manipur	215	274	289
Meghalya	1071	1055	1112
Mizoram	90	126	133
Nagaland	184	210	221
Orissa	35082	35090	36985
Punjab	12684	12690	13375
Rajasthan	605060	607000	639778
Sikkim	9952	9960	10498
Tamil Nadu	636640	645580	680441
Tripura	N.A.	596	628

Uttar Pradesh	712000	719000	757826
West Bengal	193611	194011	204488
Andaman & Nicobar	6028	6030	6356
Chandigarh	9691	8563	9025
Daman & Diu	7482	7600	8010
Delhi	1158355	1162400	1225170
Lakshadweep	776	807	851
Pondicherry	20774	20900	22029
TOTAL	5500419	5532521	5831277

The figures are maintained calendar year-wise and not financial year-wise. The estimates for 1999 are based on growth rate of international tourist arrivals projected for 1999.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists among others include improvement of infrastructural facilities, strengthening of marketing efforts and sustained human resource development.

(c) The Working Group on Tourism for the Ninth Five Year Plan has set a target of 8% growth in tourist arrivals till 2001. Accordingly, the tourist arrivals target for the year 2000 and 2001 would be 3.12 million and 3.37 million respectively.

Development of Buddhist Pilgrimages in Madhya Pradesh

†773. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented for the development of tourist places, Sanchi and Sajdhara in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of future plans for development of above tourist places and Buddhist pilgrimages; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to provide flood-lights to ensure the visibility of Sanchi Stupa and its gate from far away during night; if not, whether the same will be formulated in future?